



New Employee at the Downtown Branch!!

We are so happy to welcome Karen Ryan to our small staff. She has already shown herself to be great at multi-tasking, and has even pitched in at the Main library. I have asked her to tell us something about herself, and what brought her to Lynchburg.

Karen Jaeger Ryan: "I started my library interests in elementary school and junior high, volunteering in my school library as well as my local Mint Hill branch of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. While I

was attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte I looked into a promising position as a Library Aide in Circulation at the University City Regional library of PLCMC. It was an absolutely perfect position for a college student – part-time from September to May and full-time June through August! I learned how to properly mend,

plasticlear, and catalog the books, as well as the ins and outs of the Dynix computer system during that time. After two years as a Library Aide and nearing the completion of my English degree at University of North Carolina at Charlotte, I decided to apply for a full-time position with the Mint Hill branch of PLCMC, going back to my roots I suppose one could say. Mint Hill branch had grown incredibly from the nook-in-the-wall library I knew as a kid, having built a brand new larger facility and in need of more employees. On top of circulation, I became head of audiovisual and mending at Mint Hill, as well as head of Mint Hill branch's social committee (each branch had their own for birthdays, morale-boosting parties, Secret Santas and the like), and liaison for PLCMC's main Staff Organization. My new hubby brought me up here to Lynchburg in late September. I am truly happy to have gotten a position in the library system here. People are simply fantastic, and the thought of not being a librarian or somehow connected to a library is not one I had wanted to consider! I hope to enroll in a long-distance program within the next few years to obtain my MLS."

Welcome Karen!

*Marilyn Martin,
Downtown Branch Library*

Holiday Craft Workshop @ *your library*™!

The Youth Services Department is inviting children of all ages to participate in the Annual Gingerbread House Workshop. Help us transform a large cardboard box into a bedazzling decoration in the library. If you like to put your creativity to work, this is the workshop for you. Join us

Thursday, December 26th, 2-4 p.m.

Friday, December 27th, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or

Saturday, December 28th, 2-4 p.m.

For more information about this program, please call the Youth Services Department at 847-1717.

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator



FRIENDS BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of the Friends Board will be Tuesday, January 14 2003, from 12 noon until 1:30 in the meeting room of the Library. All members are welcome.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 264
Lynchburg, Va.

LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 6

www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary

DECEMBER 2002/JANUARY 2003

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

More on State Budget Cuts

The State budget crisis has hit public libraries hard. So far, we haven't had to cut hours like the DMV, and Campbell County Public Library or reduce staff supported services like the Bedford Public Library, but the future is uncertain. With the Governor's recent order to cut 15%, our library lost \$34,710 in State Aid. Coupled with earlier reductions, we have lost \$75,000 in State funds over the past 18 months; that's a 28% reduction.

State Aid is used to buy books, CD's, videos, audiocassettes and magazines; it is 100% of that budget. The most recent cut means about 3,000 fewer items will be added to the adult and children's collections this year. Fewer titles and copies of new items will be ordered, you will wait longer for the popular titles that are available. Children will have fewer materials to support their school assignments and leisure reading. And, these cutbacks come at the very time public library use has increased 15% - in poor economic times, library use goes up.

And, this is just the beginning. More cuts are expected in the FY 2004 State budget and more are possible in FY 2003, after the General Assembly convenes. And, as importantly, no one knows how the state cuts will ultimately affect the City's FY 2004 budget. As I mentioned earlier, so far we have not had to cut hours but it could very well happen if the effect on the City's budget is adverse enough.

City Manager Kim Payne has recently stated:

"The State's fiscal future is bleak at best and fiscal adversity at the local level is looming.... What we think might be a worse case scenario would be an across-the-board reduction in State funding of 15% resulting in lost revenue to the City of \$7.5 million.... At this point we will not speculate on the impact of the State budget cuts on the City; we just do not have enough information."

The City Manager has challenged all city employees "to work smarter and less expensively" and to make suggestions for cost savings across the organization. Library staff are reviewing all aspects of the library's operations, seeking opportunities to reduce expenses. But State Aid is approximately 20% of the library's budget and 100% of the materials budget. If it is eliminated, there will be no new books, magazines, CD's audiocassettes and videos.

We need your help. Please contact your local state legislators. They want to hear from the citizens they represent, to know which services you value, which services and programs you want to continue to be supported by the state. Please tear off the accompanying form and mail it, with any comments you care to add, to our local legislators. Thank you.

TO: Senator Steve Newman
P.O. Box 2209
Lynchburg, VA 24501-0209

Delegate Preston Bryant
P.O. Box 3589
Lynchburg, VA 24503

As a supporter of the Lynchburg Public Library, I want to share with you my concerns over the possibility of further cuts in, or even the elimination of, State Aid to Public Libraries. Public libraries are critical to our quality of life. Cuts too deep would diminish the library's ability to serve our citizens at a time when they are using its services more than ever. As you deliberate the FY 2004 State Budget, please remember our public libraries. Thank you.

_____(name)

_____(address)

_____(address)

MAIN LIBRARY
2315 Memorial Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Circulation, Renewals,
Returns, Library Cards
847-1565

Reference and
Information
847-1566

Youth Services
847-1717

Administration and
Technical Services
847-1577

Volunteer Program
847-1577

**DOWNTOWN BRANCH AND
LAW LIBRARY**
900 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
847-1768

**LIBRARY HOURS
Main**
Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.
9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Tues., Thurs.
9:30 AM-9:00 PM

Downtown Branch
Mon.- Fri. - 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

MAIN LIBRARY
Closed December 24
and 25 and January 1
for the Holidays

Close at 5:30 PM on
Tuesday, December 31 for
New Year's Eve

Closed Monday, January 20
for King Holiday

BRANCH LIBRARY
Closed from December 21-
27 and January 1
for the Holidays

Closed Monday, January 20
for King Holiday

PAGE

1



Library's Volunteer Office Participates in *Plant the Promise*



Library Volunteer Coordinator Chris Verilla plants red tulip bulbs which will bloom next April

During Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, The Alliance for Families and Children of Central Virginia, in cooperation with the Community Wide Youth Collaborative, sponsored the *Plant the Promise* campaign for a drug-free and violence-free community. The Alliance for Families and Children distrib-

uted red tulip bulbs and asked groups to plant the bulbs symbolizing the hope for a drug and

violence free community. The red tulips will bloom during Alcohol Awareness Month in April.

The Volunteer Office at Lynchburg Public Library participated in the Plant the Promise campaign by distributing 70 red tulip bulbs to the youth group from the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Youth leader Tara Bowes arranged for the youth group to visit the library and meet with the Volunteer Coordinator Chris Verilla to learn about volunteer opportunities for teenagers. The group agreed to plant the tulip bulbs at their church.

The library also received 50 red tulip bulbs, which were planted in one of the flowerbeds located beside the front door. In April watch for our red blooms!

Lynchburg Citizens Go Global @ your library™: A Real Success Story

Trudy Swart has taken advantage of the free computer classes offered in the Gates Lab. She has taken almost all of the classes and has progressed from a computer novice to someone who regularly e-mails friends and family in both English and Dutch!

Trudy began her journey to computer literacy by asking questions of one of the library's many computer volunteers. After spending some time one-on-one with Doug Small she progressed to opening a Yahoo e-mail account. Recently her family chipped in together and bought her a laptop for her 80th birthday.

Trudy has lived in Lynchburg since 1971. She and her husband moved here when he retired, choosing Lynchburg in order to be close to the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Peaks of Otter.

Trudy, whose real first name is Truus, is now a widow. She does volunteer work at Lynchburg College in their counseling department. She is also a lifelong scholar at Lynchburg College. She was born in Nijmegen, Netherlands and moved to the United States with her family. Her perfect, unaccented English belies the fact that she didn't know English at all when she arrived here. She and her sisters worked in the Dutch government offices in Manhattan, which is how she met her husband Marinus, also Dutch. Like many of their countrymen and countrywomen, Trudy

and Marinus continued their Dutch culture at home while embracing the American culture in public.

Trudy is truly a global citizen, as she contacts people on three continents by e-mail. Her daughter and grandson live in New York, her son and three granddaughters live in Australia, and many other family members and friends remain in the Netherlands. She sends and receives e-mail and greeting cards from all of them.

We have enjoyed seeing the happiness that comes from being able to contact far-flung family and friends at the click of a mouse and are happy to play a part in connecting this mother, grandmother and friend to her loved ones.



Spring Storytime @ your library™

Registration begins Monday, January 13. Registration in person is required. Storytimes begin the week of January 27 and will continue through the week of May 12. Please call or visit the library for more information.

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator
847-1717

Speaking of Books @ your library™

The adult book discussion group has chosen the books that they will discuss for the first six months of 2003. We will have some special meetings for three of those months. On February 19 at 1:00 PM, we will discuss poetry, and the discussion will be led by Randolph-Macon Woman's College English professor Laura-Gray Street. The discussion will focus on the books *How to Read a Poem* by Molly Peacock and *Americana* by John Updike.

Our March 26 meeting will take place in a different venue. We will meet at 1:00 PM at the Maier Museum at Randolph-Macon Woman's College. We will discuss *Lydia* Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper by Harriet

Scott Chessman. We will meet at the museum so that we can look at the Mary Cassatt painting it owns.

Our April 16 meeting will feature local author Alice Heard Williams. She will be present at the discussion of her book *Seeking the High Yellow Note, Vincent Van Gogh in Provence*.

And three of the months will be our traditional meetings in the community room at 1:00 PM.

January 15 – *The Ginger Tree* by Oswald Wynd

May 21 – *Unravelling* by Elizabeth Graver

June 18 – *The Beach House* by Mary Alice Monroe

NO State Tax Forms @ your library™

Because of the budget cuts, the state will no longer provide libraries with paper copies of Virginia state income tax forms. Citizens may pick up tax forms at the Commissioner of the Revenue in City Hall, or they may come to either library and use the public Internet computers to print out their tax forms; a charge of \$.10 per page will apply. The reference staff will not search and print state tax forms for patrons, as the volume would be too great (in 2002, the library distributed 11,500 state tax forms and 4,500 instruction booklets).

Federal Income Tax forms will be distributed. This service is coordinated by Circulation staff member Deborah Beasley who reports the federal forms will be available in January. Once again, the AARP will be providing tax assistance at both libraries. More details will be available at a later date.

Monster Movie Monday @ your library™!

December 23 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.
Treat yourself to one of the most entertaining movies of the year, *Monster, Inc.* rated G, 93 minutes. Fun for kids and adults alike.

December 30 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.
Travel with Harry on the adventure of a lifetime. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* rated PG, 152 minutes. Great family fun!

For more information, please call the Youth Services Department at 847-1717.

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator

Go Figure a Resounding Success @ your library™



This fall's visit of the **GO FIGURE** children's exhibit was wildly successful. In just 6 weeks, over 1,000 children made field trips to the interactive math exhibit with their school classes. And, staff estimate that another

1,000 children experienced the exhibit while visiting the library with family. The library was abuzz with the happy voices of the 2-7 year olds whom the exhibit was designed to teach about mathematics in everyday life. For many children this was their first visit to the library.

GO FIGURE uses popular children's books, such as *Arthur's Pet Business*, to teach children that mathematics is everywhere, in everything we do. Originally conceived by the Minnesota Children's Museum, funding was provided through the generosity of the 3M and Cargill Corporations. The traveling exhibit was been in 75 public libraries across the country over the past three years; Lynchburg was the only library in Virginia to have it.

Special thanks are due Youth Services Head Lorry Risinger, who submitted the grant application. She and her staff complemented the exhibit by featuring StoryTime themes with math concepts.

Lynn Dodge, Director
847-1577

Volunteers Needed @ your library™

The library needs volunteers in the technical services department to help mend books. Please contact volunteer coordinator Chris Verilla at 847-1577.

